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Media Release – Digitization Project for 2020

Each year the Frontenac Heritage Foundation (FHF) undertakes a special project that helps to highlight the precious heritage and history of the Kingston region. In previous years, the Foundation assisted in the publication of several books, and last year, the FHF combined efforts with The Spire to bring together representatives of religious affiliations across eastern Ontario to discuss the many issues regarding declining congregations attending churches.

This year, the Foundation is undertaking something quite different. As a result of a recommendation by Heather Home of Queen's Archives, the Foundation is digitizing 24 years of the Daily British Whig, from 1902 to 1926. Heather states "This is a project that researchers, genealogists and students alike will all find helpful; the project will really help to move our historical records into the digital age."

Currently, local libraries hold microfilm of the newspapers, but anyone who has attempted to research on microfilm will know that it is tedious and has a poor search function. Digitizing this daily newspaper will make it easy to research from the comfort of your own computer screen. The materials will be of special interest to those who wish to research people and events relating to World War I, during which time there was a special insert in the newspaper describing life in the Barriefield Camp.

"Organizations like the FHF are essential to sustaining and supporting their community memory and shared stories, and OurDigitalWorld is very pleased to be working with the Foundation to make this valuable set of newspapers, so rich with community history, available for widespread online discovery and exploration." Jess Posgate, Projects Coordinator, OurDigitalWorld.

Two sources of funding are assisting with the project. The Davies Foundation generously donated to the project, and this is fitting as the Michael Davies family took over the publication of the Kingston Whig Standard, as it became in 1926. Secondly, the Foundation received a City of Kingston Heritage Fund Project Grant with the assistance of the Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic Sites. Shirley Bailey states "The Foundation is grateful to agencies like these which donate funds towards the betterment of our community each year."

When the project is completed later this year, the Foundation will hold a public information session so people can learn more on how to use the new materials. Ultimately, the materials will reside at this location when they're online: <http://vitacollections.ca/digital-kingston/search>

For more information, please contact Shirley Bailey, President, at 343-363-1901, or Penny Sharman, Executive Director at 613-766-2599 or at contact@frontenacheritage.ca, or alternatively Jess Posgate at jposgate@ourdigitalworld.org.